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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/017,329	02/02/1998	RYUICHI MATSUKURA	1083.1049/JD	8159

21171 7590 06/13/2002

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EXAMINER

CARDONE, JASON D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2152	21

DATE MAILED: 06/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/017,329	Applicant(s) Matsukura
	Examiner Jason D. Cardone	Art Unit 2152
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).		
Status		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>May 13, 2002</u>		
2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL . 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-11 and 16-21</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-11 and 16-21</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
Application Papers		
9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
13) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.		
15) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.		
Attachment(s)		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____		
4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: See Attached Office Action		

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Reconsideration

1. This action is responsive to the amendment of the applicants (Paper No. 18) filed on 4/11/02. Claims 1-11 and 16-21 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-11 and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ooki, U.S. Patent No. 5,991,846, in view of Bouve et al. "Bouve", U.S. Patent No. 6,385,622.

4. Regarding claim 1, Ooki discloses a computer network system in which plural connecting means capable of connecting and disconnecting a computer is provided in a network circuit to which a first computer has been connected, and a second computer is connected to one of the connecting means [Ooki, col. 1, line 55 - col. 2, line 22 and col. 3, lines 1-25], wherein

the first computer comprises resource information managing means for managing information relating to resources, which are usable through the network circuit, and resource information processing means for taking out the content of the resource information managing means in response to a request of information relating to usable resources from another

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computer, and transmitting to the network circuit [ie. printer selection unit with printer information storage unit, Ooki, col. 3, lines 39-61 and col. 4, lines 11-63];

the second computer comprises resource setting means for setting the resource according to the content of the resource information transmitted by the resource information processing means of the first computer [Ooki, col. 2, lines 16-47], and;

when the second computer is connected to the network circuit through any one of the plural connecting means, the resource setting means receives the content of the resource information transmitted by the resource information processing means of the first computer and sets the resource [Ooki, col. 3, lines 39-61 and col. 4, lines 11-63].

Ooki does not specifically disclose information including a position in the real world for each of the resources. However, Bouve, in the same field of endeavor, discloses information storage that includes a position in the real world for each of the resources [ie. services/resources, Bouve, col. 1, line 61 - col. 2, line 64, col. 3, lines 23-32, col. 5, lines 14-21 and 53-62, col. 8, line 63 - col. 9, line 13 and col. 13, lines 11-24]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the physical location of the resource, taught by Bouve, in to the printer system, taught by Ooki, since Bouve suggests a database similar to the printer information storage unit disclosed by Ooki [Ooki, col. 3, lines 39-61 and col. 4, lines 11-63] can be used to hold the physical position in the real world for each of the resources. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Ooki to include the location specific managing of the resources in view of Bouve, so that the user can

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select a printer by location. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ooki and Bouve (Ooki-Bouve) to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

5. Regarding claim 2, claim 2 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource installation position managing means for managing the position at which the resource managed by the resource information managing means exists and selecting an arbitrary resource. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1]. Also, Ooki-Bouve further discloses the resource installation position managing means for managing the position at which the resource managed by the resource information managing means exists and selecting an arbitrary resource [Ooki, col. 3, lines 39-61 and col. 4, lines 11-63] [Bouve, col. 3, lines 23-32, col. 5, lines 14-21, and col. 8, line 63 - col. 9, line 13].

6. Regarding claim 3, claim 3 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource information holding means for holding the resource information relating to the resources that can be managed directly and comparing means for comparing the content of the resource information holding means and the content of the resource information managing means of the first computer, detecting a replaceable resource. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1]. Also, Ooki-Bouve further discloses resource information holding means for holding the resource

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information relating to the resources that can be managed directly and comparing means for comparing the content of the resource information holding means and the content of the resource information managing means of the first computer, detecting a replaceable resource [Ooki, col. 3, lines 39-61 and col. 4, lines 11-63] [Bouve, col. 3, lines 23-32].

7. Regarding claim 4, claim 4 has similar limitations as claim 1. Therefore, it is rejected under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1].

8. Regarding claim 5, claim 5 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource information holding means for holding the resource information relating to the resources that can be managed directly and comparing means for comparing the content of the resource information holding means and the content of the resource information managing means of the first computer, detecting a replaceable resource. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1]. Also, Ooki-Bouve further discloses resource information holding means for holding the resource information relating to the resources that can be managed directly and comparing means for comparing the content of the resource information holding means and the content of the resource information managing means of the first computer, detecting a replaceable resource [Ooki, col. 4, lines 11-63] [Bouve, col. 5, lines 14-21, and col. 8, line 63 - col. 9, line 13].

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9. Regarding claim 6, claim 6 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource updating means for updating the content of the resource information managing means when receiving an updated resource. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1]. Also, Ooki-Bouve further discloses a resource updating means for updating the content of the resource information managing means when receiving an updated resource information [Ooki, col. 4, lines 11-63] [Bouve, col. 3, lines 23-32, col. 5, lines 14-21, and col. 8, line 63 - col. 9, line 13].

10. Regarding claims 7-9, claim 7-9 have similar limitations as claim 1. Therefore, they are rejected under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1].

11. Regarding claims 10 and 11, claims 10-11 has similar limitations as claim 1 and additional limitations of a resource noticing means for noticing the content of the resource information managing means and updating resource information registering means by receiving the updated resource information from the computer. Therefore, the similar limitations are disclosed under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1]. Also, Ooki-Bouve further discloses a resource noticing means for noticing the content of the resource information managing means and updating resource information registering means by receiving the updated resource information from the computer [Ooki, col. 4, lines 11-63] [Bouve, col. 3, lines 23-32, col. 5, lines 14-21, and col. 8, line 63 - col. 9, line 13].

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12. Regarding claims 16-21, claims 16-21 have similar limitations as claim 1. Therefore, they are rejected under Ooki-Bouve for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 1 [Supra 1].

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason D. Cardone, whose telephone number is (703) 305-8484. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart, can be reached on (703) 305-4815. The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 746-7238 (After Final Communications)

(703) 746-7239 (Official Communications)

(703) 746-7240 (For Status inquiries, Draft Communications)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Jason D. Cardone

June 12, 2002



ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER